

Message Text

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SUBJECT: IMPACT OF GREEK REFERENDUM ON MONARCH IN SPAIN

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH SCOPE OF IMPACT OF GREEK REFUSAL TO RETURN MONARCHY IS HARD TO JUDGE, SPANIARDS HAVE UNDOUBTEDLY BEEN REMINDED ABOUT FRAGILITY OF THEIR MONARCHIAL OPTION FOLLOWING FRANCO'S DEMISE, PARTICULARLY AS THERE IS LITTLE POPULAR BASE FOR MONARCHY IN PRESENT DAY SPAIN. END SUMMARY

1. SPANISH MEDIA HAVE GIVEN FRONTPAGE COVERAGE IN EXTENSIO TO DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE FOR PAST FEW MONTHS SINCE OVERTURN OF MILITARY REGIME. ON EVE OF REFERENDUM ON MONARCHY DEC 8, LEADING SPANISH NEWSPAPERS REVIEWED ENTIRE GREEK SITUATION DESCRIBING HISTORY OF MONARCHY, VICISSITUDES OF POST-WAR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, FAMILY HISTORY OF CONSTANTINE WITH COMMENTARY ABOUT OUTLOOK FOR
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REFERENDUM. MEDIA FAILED TO MENTION THAT CONSTANTINE

IS BROTHER OF PRINCESS SOFIA, THE SPOUSE OF PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, FRANCO'S DESIGNATED MONARCHIAL SUCCESSOR. ALL SPANIARDS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THIS FAMILY TIE, AND OF THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE REFERENDUM WOULD HAVE FOR GREECE'S POLITICAL DESTINY. MOREOVER, POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS SPANIARDS WERE ALSO AWARE THAT PRINCE JUAN CARLOS' FATHER, DON JUAN, AND OTHERS, PRINCIPALLY "JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" ANNOUNCED BY COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER SANTIAGO CARRILLO AND CALVO SERER (DON JUAN'S EARLIER POLITICAL ADVISER) IN PARIS LAST JULY, ADVOCATED REFERENDUM IN SPAIN ON MONARCHY FOLLOWING FRANCO'S DEMISE. SPANISH OPPOSITION HAS LONG HELD VIEW THAT REFERENDUM HELD IN SPAIN ON LAW OF SUCCESSION AND ORGANIC LAW OF 1967 WERE NOT TRUE REFLECTION OF PEOPLE'S OPINION BUT RATHER UNDEMOCRATIC PLEBICITES IN SUPPORT OF FRANCO.

2. RESULTS OF GREEK REFERENDUM WERE HEADLINED IN ALL SPANISH NEWSPAPERS. THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENTARY TO DATE EXCEPT FOR FRONTPAGE PICTURE OF CARAMANLIS IN "ABC" (MONARCHIST) DEC 10 WITH BRIEF CAPTION ACCUSING HIM OF HAVING WITHDRAWN SUPPORT FROM MONARCHY IN ORDER TO PERPETUATE HIS OWN POSITION AS HEAD OF REPUBLIC. IN COMMENT TO CHARGE DEC 10, INFLUENTIAL DEPUTY IN CORTES SAID THAT OUTCOME OF GREEK REFERENDUM WAS BAD OMEN, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THERE ALREADY WAS NO POPULAR BASE FOR MONARCHY IN SPAIN (THIS IS A WIDELY HELD VIEW AMONG POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS SPANIARDS). HE ADDED THAT "WE COULD NEVER HAVE A REFERENDUM IN SPAIN BECAUSE IT WOULD END UP BY BEING A REFERENDUM ON THE SYSTEM ITSELF".

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT TO GAUGE, IMPACT OF GREEK REFERENDUM HAS HAD UNDOUBTEDLY EFFECT AMONG THOSE SPANIARDS WHO HAVE LOOKED UPON MONARCHY AS INSTITUTION WHICH COULD HELP BRIDGE DIFFERENCES AMONG SPANIARDS AND PROVIDE NEEDED CONTINUITY FOLLOWING FRANCO'S DEMISE. RIGHT WING AND TRADITIONALIST ELEMENTS IN SPAIN'S POLITICAL ESTABLISHMENT MAY BE INFLUENCED TOWARD HARDENING THEIR ATTITUDE ABOUT GRADUAL TRANSFORMATION OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS. ARMED FORCES, WHICH WELCOMED DESIGNATION OF JUAN CARLOS AS FUTURE KING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN 1969 AS RESOLVING BASIC CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTION, SUPPORT HIM AS FRANCO'S DESIGNATED LEADER OF INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY TO SPAIN AFTER FRANCO. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT JUAN CARLOS HAS A GREAT DEAL OF PERSONAL SUPPORT AMONG MILITARY NOR IS THERE INDICATION THAT MONARCHY AS AN INSTITUTION HAS ANY IDEOLOGICAL SUPPORT. MILITARY WILL BACK JUAN CARLOS AS KING DEPENDENT UPON THE DEGREE TO WHICH HE APPEARS TO

CONSOLIDATE ORDERLY CONTINUITY. PRINCE HIMSELF MAY
BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR HIM OF THE GREEK
EXPERIENCE. UNDER SYSTEM ESTABLISHED BY FRANCO, FUTURE
KING IS NOT EXPECTED TO RULE BUT TO BE ARBITRATOR ABOVE
POLITICAL ARENA. FACT THAT CONSTANTINE TRIED TOO DIRECTLY
TO INTERFERE IN POLITICS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF CAUSES OF HIS
PROBLEMS.
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